

# Invite Toddlers to 'Phone Santa' Again

For the third straight year Torrance will be tied in with a direct line to Santa's workshop at the North Pole, it was reported yesterday, and local toddlers will have a perfect opportunity to make their Christmas requests in person.

A Torrance telephone an-

swering service has made arrangements to have extra lines installed to handle the rush of expected calls. Crews of volunteers will stand by to take the calls and to assure each of the youngsters calling that "This is Santa Claus in his workshop at the North Pole."

Youngsters can talk personally to Santa if mother will dial FAirfax 8-3535 between 1:30 and 4 p.m., tomorrow and Friday, or Saturday morning between 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon.

Roger Wright, owner of the answering service, reported that last year's effort

was outstanding. After a short article, which was printed only in the Torrance Press, appeared, utter chaos broke loose in the office. Some 25 volunteers, hurriedly recruited from the ranks of local physicians and businessmen, worked in shifts to take all of the calls.

Wright stated that he has installed extra lines and had sent out a call for additional volunteers to handle the expected rush of phone calls.

A great number of last year's calls were put on tape, Wright said, and some of the calls were hilarious. Answering one call, a

woman operator said "North Pole," and a small boy, puzzled at hearing a woman's voice on the phone asked who she was.

"I'm an elf, one of Santa's helpers," she answered sweetly.

Indignantly the boy said, "What are you doing play-

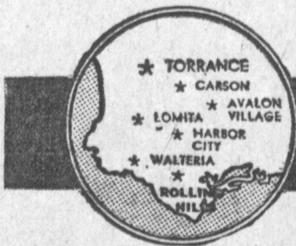
ing with the phone? You're supposed to be making things for good boys and girls."

Momentarily at a loss for words she started to pound on the table and said, "I am making things. Can't you hear me? Now, if you'll call back after 2 o'clock you can talk to Santa Claus."

LATEST TORRANCE POPULATION

## 108,506

October 1, 1961, Estimate



ACTION WANT-ADS CALL DA 5-1515

# TORRANCE PRESS

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# LYNN BOLTS BOARD

TIE EMPLOYEES . . .

## Two Gunmen Loot Market; Make Escape With \$30,000

A trio of hooded bandits, believed by police officers to have been hiding in a storeroom, robbed a Torrance market of an estimated \$30,000 in cash and checks Monday morning and escaped.

Investigators stated that at least three, and possibly four, gunmen participated in the robbery. Entry into the store was gained by cutting a hole in the roof and lowering themselves to the floor on a rope.

Employees of Better Foods Market, corner of Redondo Beach Blvd. and Prairie Ave., reported that, when they opened the store at 7:30 a.m., the gunmen were waiting inside for them. Two of the bandits were inside the store while a third waited on the roof. Police conjectured that a fourth suspect was probably waiting nearby behind the wheel of a "getaway" car.

ARMED, MASKED

Store employees said that the two inside the store were both armed with automatic pistols and wore dark "sailor's" neckerchiefs "draped over their heads and held in place with cheap tan hats. No eye slits were cut in the masks as the suspects could apparently see through the thin material.

When the first six employees entered the store they were accosted by the pair who ordered 19-year old Wil-

liam Dessert to take four of the others into a backroom and tie them up.

OPENS SAFE

Store manager Salvatore DiBenedetto said that he was then ordered to open the safe. When he said that he couldn't open it because he didn't have the combination, he was told to "open the safe or I'll blow your guts out," by one of the gunmen.

At this point, DiBenedetto said, the mask slipped from the face of one of the suspects and the store manager got a good look at him.

As the suspect tried to cover his face he said to the manager, "Don't look at me. Don't look at me."

After looting the safe DiBenedetto was led into the back room to be bound by Dessert who, in turn, was tied up by the bandits.

Gunmen then fled through a side door. A few moments later another store employee, Robert Cally, came in, found the bound men, and called police.

DiBenedetto stated that the suspect who lost his mask was about 35 years of age, light complected and had blond hair with a "pinkish" cast. He was of medium height and build.



SEARCH FOR CULPRIT—William Dessert, 19-year-old clerk at Better Foods Market, corner of Redondo Beach Blvd. and Prairie Ave., goes over Police Department "mug" file searching for suspects who held up store Monday morning. Detective Miles

Hamilton, left, is in charge of investigation of the robbery which netted gunmen some \$30,000 in cash and checks. Bandits were inside store when employees showed up for work.

—Press Photo

## Council Orders Action On Chained Newsstand

City councilmen last night noted that newsracks of the "People's World," an ultra-liberal publication, were chained to a Torrance street signal light and instructed City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier and Chief of Police Percy Bennett to take necessary steps to see that they were removed.

Publication is not the same as the Socialist Labor Party's "Weekly People," which aroused a storm of controversy several months ago.

Council also indicated that they would investigate the new paper's possible affiliation with dubious and suspect political organizations.

City attorney was also instructed to prepare actions aimed at regulating the disposition of newsracks and prohibiting the chaining of the racks to public property.

## Accident Victim Declared Dead At Harbor Hosp.

A Torrance area woman, was struck and killed by an automobile Monday night while she was walking along the road on Western Ave., near Plaza Del Amo.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital was Mrs. Anastasia Hymniak, 57, of 1036 1/2 Plaza Del Amo.

Driver of the vehicle that struck Mrs. Hymniak was identified as Robert L. Hodges, 24, of 1603 S. Catalina Ave., Redondo Beach.

Investigating officers said that the woman was apparently carrying four 15-foot boards on her shoulder when she was hit. Officers said they were at a loss to explain where she got the lumber.

## Chartered Buses Will Visit Jan. 1 Rose Tourney

The Torrance Municipal bus lines announce that again this year they will have special buses to the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Jan. 1.

Buses will leave Torrance City Hall at 7 a.m., and the bus fare will be \$2.75. Also, as a convenience to the public, the bus line will handle grandstand seats for the Pasadena City College. Price of the seat is \$5.50. Combination ride and seat is \$8.25.



LOLLIPOPS AND SKIERS—Decorate the front lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Mayer's home, 4917 Laurette, Torrance. In addition to the skiers, which are dressed in children's clothing, the lawn is enhanced with

fiction snow, a snowman, plaster reindeer and "lighted" trees. The Mayers made all the figures themselves and say they someday hope to do them professionally.

—Press Photo.



DIAL DA 5-1515 . . . we'll do the rest! It's that easy to place a Torrance Press want ad. Pick up your phone and call DA 5-1515, an experienced courteous ad-taker will word a low-cost, result-getting want ad. Do it now. Just dial DA 5-1515; and turn your "don't needs" into ready cash!

## Stages 'Walkout' in Protest Against More Portable Classrooms

A Turious member of the Torrance School Board stalked out of Monday night's meeting following a decision to build "portable" metal classrooms at the new million-dollar Victor School.

Bert M. Lynn, outspoken critic of excess expenditures in school district budgets, romped out of the board meeting after fellow members voted against permanent classroom construction in favor of the metal buildings.

Board President William Hanson as well as members Albert Charles and Kurt Shery favored the portable classes because, they noted, there would be a \$13,000 savings over the permanent

kind. School administration leaders also favored the portable rooms.

Lynn said last night that he favored the permanent installations because the difference in maintenance costs over a short time would more than make up the difference in original cost.

"POUND-FOOLISH"

Scoring the decision as "penny-wise and pound-foolish" he said that the "new Victor plant is one of the most beautiful in the community, near a beautiful high school, and is surrounded by some of the more beautiful homes in the community." He felt that the addition of "metal shacks" to the school was

uncalled for. Board member William Boswell sided with Lynn.

Spokesmen for the majority said that they were voted into office to pursue a program of "bare-bone" economy and that a saving of \$13,000 was not a slight one.

School administration figures, which have been questioned in the past by both sides of the current

dispute, indicated that maintenance costs on the buildings would be slight, averaging about \$750 per year.

Hanson succinctly summed up the opinion of the majority when he said, "I think that children can learn as well in a portable classroom as in a permanent one!"

## Judge William MacFaden to Get Top Municipal Court Post

At a weekend meeting of local court officials Judge William E. MacFaden was elected presiding judge of the South Bay Municipal Court for the coming year.

As presiding official of the court he will succeed Judge Otto B. Willett, who served during the year just completed.

A former city attorney for Redondo Beach and for the city of Hawthorne he has also served as special counsel for Redondo Beach.

A former member of the Los Angeles County Administrative Committee of the California Bar Association, he

was chairman of a special administrative committee for the association.

Judge MacFaden graduated from Redondo Union High School and attended UCLA, and Loyola University. He graduated from the latter school in 1936.

A state vice president for the Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1941, Judge MacFaden served two terms as president of the Redondo Jaycees, receiving a distinguished service award in 1944. He also served for 12 years on the board of directors of the Redondo Chamber.



PLAQUE PRESENTED—Del Vaughn, outgoing president of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors, accepts a special plaque from outgoing vice president Irene Baker, commemorating his outstanding services to

the board. Award was presented during the installation ceremonies Saturday night at the board's remodeled offices at the corner of Sepulveda and Arlington Aves.

—Press Photo